

Minutes
**Labor-Management Advisory Council on
Workers' Compensation**

December 14, 2006

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Advisory council members present: Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, Jerry Keck, Doug Buman, Bill Dahlgren, Jacquie Helt, Annette Hoffman, Don Judge, Dan Lee, Jason Miller, Connie Welsh, Bob Worthington

Project team present: Anne Wolfinger, Diana Ferriter, Keith Messmer, Chris Catlett, Dave Elenbaas, Debbie Blossom, Connie Ferriter, Wade Wilkison, Sharon Peterson, Erin Austin

Others present: Anne Wolfinger, Diana Ferriter, Keith Messmer, Chris Catlett, Dave Elenbaas, Debbie Blossom, Connie Ferriter, Wade Wilkison, Mari Kindberg, Sharon Peterson, Erin Austin, Workers' Compensation Study Project team; Will Hammerquist, Lt. Governor's Office; Mike Taylor, NCCI; Nancy Boldt, Center for Occupational Health, Community Medical Center; Tana Wilcox, NorthWestern Energy; Patti Grosfield, Emelia McEwen, Montana Association of Counties; Kris Carlson, A Plus Healthcare; Judith Gibbons, Nancy Butler, Montana State Fund; Larry Jones, Liberty Northwest; Viki White, Montana Health Systems; Michael Marsh, Midland Claims; Gordy Higgins, State Auditor's Office; Jon Bennion, Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce; Tim Fitzpatrick, Broadspire/Crawford Healthcare; Lance Zanto, Department of Administration.

Note: Audio files and handouts of the meeting are available on the web site.

Welcome

Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Keith Kelly welcomed the advisory council members and the audience and expressed his appreciation for everyone's involvement.

Opening Remarks/Introductions

Lt. Governor Bohlinger highlighted the purpose of the advisory council and had council members introduce themselves and give their background information.

Workers' Compensation Study Project Phase I Summary

Jerry Keck gave a PowerPoint presentation which summarized the workers' compensation research conducted over the past year by the project team. **Refer to website for the power point presentation.**

Advisory Council Operating Guidelines

Jerry distributed the *Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation Procedures Manual* to the council for their discussion and consideration at the next council meeting. **Refer to website for the manual.**

LAWS—Tracking Bills in the 2007 Legislature

Will Hammerquist introduced advisory council members to the bill tracking system used by the Legislature and showed them the lists on workers' compensation bills he had set up for their review. Will plans to manage the lists for the advisory council throughout the session.

Jerry briefly described the workers' compensation bills proposed by the Department of Labor and Industry.

Making Rates: How Do They Do That Actuarial Thing?

Mike Taylor from NCCI gave a PowerPoint presentation on ratemaking (**available on the website**) for the benefit of the council members.

Life of a Claim

Diana Ferriter, chief of the Workers' Compensation Claims Assistance Bureau, described the process of filing and processing claims (**handout available on the website**).

Next Steps

The next meeting of the Labor-Management Advisory Council will be January 9 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at the Best Western Great Northern in Helena, preceding the Workers' Compensation Educational Conference on January 10-11.